



Rhode Island's Career Resource Network

News Corner

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Support for Academic and Career Counseling Programs



A Model Career Center

You have the resources — the career publications, computer programs, and other material to help students/clients with career planning. How do you make sure that they are used effectively by all those individuals you serve? The inFocus Center at Coventry High School, which became operational in the spring of 2002, provides an example of one way.

The Center, which can be accessed from an exterior door as well as from a school hallway, has a conference table in the center, several computers along one wall, shelves for books lining another wall, and colorful posters and other decorations.

The school's English department sent each class to the Center for one period for orientation. Following the orientation, students may go to the Center when they have "free" time to use the Choices computer program or other resources in the room. Students who have a particular interest can volunteer to be interns and assist other students. Orientation was also provided for teachers, who are collaborating with the inFocus Center staff to create units of instruction that involve school to career components.

The Center was developed after researching existing similar programs. In addition to the school administration, other contributors to the success of the center include an architect, the manager of the netWORKri Office in West Warwick, faculty and staff, and parents. Plans call for opening the Center one evening a week and on Saturdays with the help of student interns and volunteer parents.

If you would like more information or would like to visit the inFocus Center, contact Pam Betres, School-to-Career Coordinator at Coventry High School (401) 822- 9467.



Volunteering for Job Experience

How can one get experience to qualify for a job when one doesn't have a job to get experience? One way is as a volunteer. When paid jobs are difficult to get, volunteers are often welcome in many organizations. Volunteers may get most of the non-monetary benefits of employment, such as an opportunity to build skills, knowledge of office procedures, computer and office machine skills, the experience as a member of a team, the self-discipline to be there when expected and needed, and that all-important opportunity to network. There is also the reward of having a source of a good recommendation for use in future job searches.

One way to get connected with volunteer opportunities is the Volunteer Center of Rhode Island. Check the website at www.vcri.org, or call (401) 421-6547. This organization has prepared useful publications including *Developing Business Skills Through Volunteerism* and *The Handbook for Teen Volunteers*.

Facilitating Career Development Training

The CRN will offer the Facilitating Career Development course in full-day sessions Mondays, Wednesdays, and **Thursdays**, starting July 15 and ending August 5. This course is for persons who assist students or clients with career planning, and covers skills for working with people, use of technology and information sources, ethical issues and other related topics. Together, with related experience, it meets the major requirements for Career Development Facilitator (C.D.F.) certification. Information and registration form can be downloaded from the CRN web site, www.dlt.state.ri.us/crn (select "training" from menu).



Play the Game....the REAL GAME!

The RI Career Resource Network (CRN) will provide support for the *Real Game* series by hosting regional

“train-the-trainer” workshops for four games August 16 through 19 in Providence. The *Real Game* series was originally developed in Canada and is currently used in over 50,000 classrooms in a dozen countries. It is supported by America’s Career Resource Network and the National Training Support Center. It has been used in many countries with outstanding success. Initially, the RI CRN will support four of the six games in the series with access to materials and training.

The workshops will train trainers for the New England states, New York, New Jersey, and (space permitting) other states. Workshops for teachers who wish to use the *Real Game* in their classes will be offered in the fall.

The *Play Real Game* introduces Grades 3 and 4 students to basic life/work concepts and vocabulary as they play the roles of adults who create neighborhoods, find jobs for themselves and others, and work together as town citizens to accomplish a worthwhile goal. While having fun with maps and role-playing, students learn the value of community, the joys and responsibilities of teamwork, the importance of essential employability skills and how education can relate to occupational choices.

The Real Game gives Grades 7 and 8 students the opportunity to explore adult realities such as taxes, living expenses, workplace environments and unexpected emergencies. Students role-play adults in randomly assigned occupational roles and see how schoolwork is related to occupational choices and, therefore, to life-style and income. Delving deeper into their roles, students learn how to budget time and money and see the

value of a balanced life-style, community involvement and lifelong learning. An exciting transition scenario illustrates the importance of adaptability and introduces the concept of transferable skills. By the end of *The Real Game*, students realize that satisfaction in work is a priority issue in life and that it is an outcome they can achieve by making the choices that are right for them.

The *Be Real Game* shows Grades 9 and 10 students how a person’s career is built with everyday choices and decisions, starting in childhood and encompassing every area of life including family, friends, education, recreational activities and life-style choices, community involvement and dealing with labor market conditions. As they play the role of a high school student to an experienced adult worker in a variety of employment, unemployment and family situations, students explore in-depth the importance of transferable skills, self-knowledge, lifelong learning and career planning. They are exposed to dozens of occupational possibilities and encouraged to actively pursue their dreams.

Real Times, Real Life helps adult learners put their lives in perspective, relieving the negative self-image that often comes with unemployment so they can begin to plan their careers with confidence. Role-playing as workers from 1900 to present day, participants get a short course in modern history, learn to appreciate that change is constant and inevitable, develop an understanding of the modern labor market and see how skills acquired in one area of life are transferable to another. Working in teams, participants learn how to assess their situations and create realistic action plans, and where to go for help when they need it.

Do you have comments or suggestions on the contents of our CRN News Corner? Do you have information that you’d like us to publish? If so, please write, call, fax or e-mail us at:

Career Resource Network

Thomas Culhane, Career Resource Network Manager
RI Department of Labor and Training
1511 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920
(401) 462-8790 phone
(401) 462-8766 fax
tculhane@dlt.state.ri.us
www.dlt.state.ri.us/crn

Work with Persons with Disabilities?



Rhode Island’s 4th Partnership to Employment Conference will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Warwick on October 21, 2002. For information, including opportunities for presenters and exhibitors, check www.sherlockcenter.org or call the Sherlock Center at (401) 456-8072.

What's New in the CRN Corner?



Career Clusters work is progressing. The committees, which were established to represent each cluster, are approaching attainment of their goals. Names of three clusters have been changed to better describe them. Revised titles are Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources; Business, Management & Administration; and Marketing, Sales & Service. The committees are developing cluster pathways, pathway and foundation knowledge and skills, and a student assessment and certification process. Details can be found on the web site, www.careerclusters.org.

The 2000 edition of the **Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) codes**, used to report fields of study and program completions primarily in postsecondary programs, has just been released. The CIP-2000 will be available later in print form, but currently is only available online at <http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearchpubsinfo.asp?pubid=2002165>. The publication, slightly under 500 pages, can be viewed or downloaded in its entirety or in sections.

Career Videos - Free!

Short videos (about two minutes each) showing workers in 289 different occupations can be downloaded from the Internet or obtained on CD-ROM. Preview the videos on the Internet at www.californiacareers.info. They were produced by a consortium of states led by the New Jersey Center for Occupational Employment Information (the CRN in New Jersey), which has an additional 152 video clips under development.

The California CRN has prepared a Spanish language version for the first 196 occupations. This set is available on CD-ROM.

The videos are available from America's Career Kit (<http://www.acinet.org/acinet/library.htm?category1.2>) or from the National Crosswalk Service Center (<ftp://ftp.xwalkcenter.org/download/video/>). Call the RI CRN for information on obtaining the videos on CD-ROM.

Choices Users - you can now download software updates from the Bridges.com web site. Go to www.bridges.com and click on "software updates."

Preparing for College, the web site of the Rhode Island Board of Governors for Higher Education (www.ribghe.org/col-prep.htm), described in the last issue of the News Corner, has been redesigned and contains updated information. Added features will be of particular interest to those who work with students with special needs.

The **Rhode Island Career Anchor** and the **CRN News Corner** are available on the Internet at www.dlt.state.ri.us/crn. The Internet version of the Career Anchor contains some updated information and links to the web sites mentioned in the text.

Occupational Focus: **Teacher**

In the United States, teachers in elementary and secondary schools (including kindergarten & special education) will be the fastest growing occupations which require a college degree, except for some computer engineers and managers. The rate of growth from 1998 to 2008 in RI is estimated at 15.5% for elementary, 27.2% for secondary and 38.1% for special education teachers. Preschool teacher growth is projected to be 24.8%. Growing emphasis on improving education and the need to replace expected retirees will create opportunities for employment.

Half of the annual salaries in RI in 2000 were between \$38,600 and \$56,908 for elementary, \$36,980 and \$49,770 for secondary and \$36,090 and \$53,900 for special education teachers.

Most teachers are employed in elementary and secondary schools. Preschool teachers are more likely to be employed in child daycare services, although substantial numbers work in elementary, secondary or parochial schools.

Teachers must be licensed (certified) by the state. This requires a bachelor's degree for entry level and additional training for continuing in the occupation. Rhode Island College trains more teachers than any other institution of higher education in the state, but almost all others have one or more teacher education programs.

Two Web Sites Worth Surfing:



AND



Those planning a college education should visit the web sites of the College Planning Center of Rhode Island. This organization is a division of the Rhode Island Student Loan Authority and is located in the Warwick Mall. The Center provides academic, admission, financial aid, and career counseling along with awareness programs designed to encourage enrollment in higher education. Their services are available to the general public at no cost.

The College Planning Center web sites are logically designed and easy to navigate. The first site, www.collegeplanningcenter.org, provides financial incentive information about demand occupations in Rhode Island such as teaching and nursing. Another useful feature of this site is a college planning center – a college search by state, a month-by-month guide to navigating through the complex requirements of SAT and ACT testing, college applications, and financial aid applications. It also includes many links to other sites for college information, distance learning, and career and job search. The second site, www.rischolarships.com is devoted entirely to information about scholarships.